

Journal

Office of Legislative Counsel

Friday - 18 March 1955

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1. Miss Meekeson, of the Legal Advisor's office in the Department of State, called to express concern about the proposed amendments to the Internal Security Act of 1950 having to do with the registration of persons with intelligence knowledge. Her concern is based on the same arguments as previously called to our attention by ONI and G-2, and she told me that these arguments all stemmed from one source. She is preparing the State Department's comments for Chairman Celler, of the House Judiciary Committee, and feels that this law would make it necessary for Consular or Immigration officials to include in the written questionnaire which an alien must fill out some questions as to their knowledge in these specific fields, which, if answered in the affirmative, would have to be followed by registration or exemption. I have told her that CIA is satisfied with the present draft.

2. Mr. Foley, of the staff of the House Judiciary Committee, called to make routine inquiry as to whether CIA desired to comment or testify on pending legislation in the field of wire tapping. I told Mr. Foley that in view of our statutory prohibition against police or internal security functions we did not engage in wire tapping in the United States, and did not have any comment on pending legislation.

25X1A 3. [ ] the Deputy Security Officer, has received a call from Mr. Kimbell Johnson, Chief of the Investigations Division of the Civil Service Commission, regarding current testimony taken before the Senate Committee on Government Operations, which is holding hearings under the Chairmanship of Senator Humphrey on legislation to establish a Commission on the Security of Federal Personnel. In the course of the Civil Service Commission testimony, Senator Humphrey asked the Commission witnesses about the investigative procedures in various Government agencies, and was told that the Commission did not control or inspect these procedures in the Departments of State, Defense, or the FBI or CIA. Sen. Humphrey asked whether the Commission might obtain some statements regarding the procedures in those agencies. [ ] is preparing

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a classified statement on the subject, which, after appropriate clearances, he proposes that I show to Sen. Humphrey and urge that we not be involved in any public testimony. Earlier in the testimony Sen. Humphrey had indicated that he did not propose to query the FBI or CIA on their procedures, and in view of my past experiences with him, I would be inclined to think that he will follow that position.

4. Mr. Lazar Volin, of the Department of Agriculture (Code 161, Ext. 5337), states that he had been invited by the American Committee for Liberation From Bolshevism to talk as a representative of the Department at a meeting which the Committee was arranging in Munich. He informs me that the Department of Agriculture procrastinated for some time on sending him as they knew nothing about the organization. In this connection he has been referred to me by Ben Mandel, of the staff of the Senate Internal Security Committee, to ask me whether I knew anybody in the State Department who might give them some background on this organization. Queries to the organization have all been replied to by letter, which, while they presented a distinguished letterhead, did not give sufficient detail for Agriculture Department officials. It is now too late for Mr. Volin to accept the speaking engagement.

5. Chairman Murray (D., Tenn.), of the House Civil Service Committee, has introduced H.R. 4688, and Cong. Rees (R., Kans.) H.R. 4820 on the subject of compensation for Government employees. Both bills are currently before the Committee for hearings, and have been referred to AD/Personnel for comment. The Rees bill is the Administration bill on this subject.

6. Mr. Dawson (D., Ill.), Chairman of the House Committee on Government Operations, has introduced H.R. 4918, which will raise per diem allowances from \$9.00 to \$13.00 per day, together with a proviso that where travel within the United States required greater expenditure the heads of agencies may authorize an actual expense basis. Legislation increasing the per diem will probably pass the current Congress.

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